

**Briefing Paper—March 2013  
Toole County, Montana  
Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan Update**

**What is a pre-disaster mitigation plan (PDM plan)?**

A PDM plan looks at natural hazards that the county, Kevin, Shelby, and Sunburst may be susceptible to and ways to lessen the potential disasters caused by those hazards. The county's existing plan is being updated to make sure the county and its communities are disaster-resistant and less vulnerable to property damage and loss of life from a natural disaster. To remain current, the state and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) require that the plan be updated every five years. By getting the plan approved, the county and its local jurisdictions will continue to be eligible to compete for project funds. The county will also be eligible for post-disaster assistance from the state and/or FEMA, in the event of a major disaster. Adoption of the plan is voluntary, but each jurisdiction--the county, Kevin, Shelby, and Sunburst--will need to have at least one mitigation project in the plan and adopt the plan if they wish to qualify for funding and assistance.

**What is in the plan?**

The plan will contain profiles of natural hazards such as flooding and wildfires, vulnerability to each hazard, and a history of past disasters. Potential losses from future disasters will be estimated. Goals and projects identified by citizens and the towns, city, and county will be prioritized and included as appropriate. The plan will also have an explanation of how it was developed, a review of other related plans, and copies of news articles and notes from meetings held to discuss the plan.

**How will the plan be revised?**

Using FEMA funds passed through the state, the county has contracted for the plan update with Barb Beck, of Beck Consulting located in Red Lodge, Montana. Working with Toole County Disaster and Emergency Services (DES), the county, and the communities over the next eight months, Ms. Beck and subcontractor AMEC, Inc. will review other local plans for consistency with this plan, update the hazard profiles, and work with elected officials and the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) to gather input and identify needed goals and projects. A draft plan will be made available for public review in the summer and comments received will be incorporated. The county will submit the plan to the Montana DES and FEMA for technical review. Finally, Kevin, Shelby, Sunburst, and Toole County will have the opportunity to adopt and implement the plan. Plan implementation will be dependent on having resources to do so.

**How do we offer input?**

Input is encouraged any time until the plan is adopted. Adoption is targeted for fall 2013. Input from citizens will help make the plan the highest quality possible. Meetings will be designed to gather input and all meetings will be noticed and open to the public. The local newspaper will be provided with meeting information and periodic updates. For more information contact DES Coordinator, Darrell Stafford at [swmprat@notherntel.net](mailto:swmprat@notherntel.net), 450-8972 or Barb Beck, 406 446-3628 [barbbeck@bresnan.net](mailto:barbbeck@bresnan.net). Information about the plan will be posted on the county's website at [www.toolecountymt.gov](http://www.toolecountymt.gov).